

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26

BY SENATORS ADLEY, ALARIO, ALLAIN, AMEDEE, APPEL, BROOME, BROWN, BUFFINGTON, CHABERT, CLAITOR, CORTEZ, CROWE, DONAHUE, DORSEY-COLOMB, ERDEY, GALLOT, GUILLORY, HEITMEIER, JOHNS, KOSTELKA, LAFLEUR, LONG, MARTINY, MILLS, MORRELL, MORRISH, MURRAY, NEVERS, PEACOCK, PERRY, PETERSON, RISER, GARY SMITH, JOHN SMITH, TARVER, THOMPSON, WALSWORTH, WARD AND WHITE

A RESOLUTION

To express the sincere condolences of the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana upon the death of United States Navy Chief Petty Officer Robert J. Reeves in Operation Enduring Freedom.

WHEREAS, Robert J. Reeves was a native of Shreveport, Louisiana, and a graduate of Caddo Magnet High School, where his strong athletic abilities allowed him to excel at soccer and lacrosse; and

WHEREAS, Robert J. Reeves enlisted in the United States Navy after high school, surprising family and friends when he decided on a military career with the elite Navy Seals as an operative in a Naval Special Warfare unit; and

WHEREAS, Chief Petty Officer Reeves endured the extreme and rigorous training and qualified for membership on Seal Team 6, a unit known in the Special Operations community as the best of the best and was the counterterrorism team that eliminated Osama bin Laden in Pakistan in May, 2011; and

WHEREAS, Chief Petty Officer Reeves, over the course of his career, had been deployed more than a dozen times to war zones since the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, serving with great gallantry and bravery; and

WHEREAS, Chief Reeves was deployed as part of a quick reaction force in Wardak Province in eastern Afghanistan on the Pakistani border, a haven for Taliban insurgents and terrorists' forces; and

WHEREAS, Chief Reeves was thirty-two years old when he and twenty-nine other American forces

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were given the dangerous, nighttime mission on August 6, 2011, of assisting an Army Ranger Unit engaged in a fierce firefight in the Tangi Valley and pinned down by Taliban insurgents; and

WHEREAS, in a twist of irony, the team leader of the mission was Chief Reeves' childhood friend and fellow Seal, Lieutenant Commander Jonas Kelsall, another Caddo High School graduate and Shreveport native; and

WHEREAS, Naval Special Warfare Operatives were successful in relieving the Rangers and pushing back the enemy and were in the process of taking off when tragedy struck; and

WHEREAS, Chief Reeves and twenty-one other Seals were on the CH-47 Chinook helicopter when it was shot down by enemy insurgents using rocket propelled grenades, killing all thirty-eight persons aboard; and

WHEREAS, Chief Reeves was highly decorated for his many brave encounters with enemies of his country, receiving four Bronze Star Medals with V Device for valor, a Joint Service Commendation Medal with V Device, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals with V Device, the Combat Action Ribbon, two Presidential Unit Citations for extraordinary valor, three Navy Good Conduct Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, Navy Expert Rifleman Medal and Navy Expert Pistol Shot Medal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby extend its deepest and most profound condolences to the family of United States Navy Chief Petty Officer Robert J. Reeves for their immeasurable loss and his ultimate sacrifice.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to Chief Reeves' father, James Weldon Reeves of Shreveport.

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE